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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /015 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:RC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
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P 050833Z AUG 77
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S E C R E T STATE 183747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: D/HA AND DOD OPTION CHOICES FOR URUGUAY MILITARY
ASSISTANT POLICY PAPER
REF: PEZZULLO-GRAHAM TELECON OF AUGUST 3.

FOR AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF D/HA MEMORANDUM DATED AUGUST 2
REGARDING SUBJECT POLICY PAPER. BEGIN TEXT.
SU0JECT: MILITARY SALES TO URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT - COMMENTS
ON DRAFT OPTIONS MEMORANDUM.
D/HA CHOOSES OPTION 3 AND WOULD LIKE A PARAGRAPH ADDED TO
THE MEMORANDUM AS FOLLOWS, TO BE PLACED FOLLOWING THE
TEXTUAL MATERIAL ON PAGE 5 WHICH PRECEDES THE "APPROVE/
DISAPPROVE" LINE FOLLOWING THE DESCRIPTION OF OPTION 1:
"ALWAYS ASSUMING THA APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE WOULD NOT MEAN
THAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN ANY WAY ADVISED
THAT A REQUEST TO PURCHASE SPARE A-37 PARTS FOR CASH WOULD
BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLY, D/HA VIEWS OPTION 1 AS AN APPRO-
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PRIATE POLICY CHOICE. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO OUR VIEW THAT
CONTINUING URUGUAYAN VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING
ARBITRARY DETENTION, MAKE IT NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITY THAT A FINDING WOULD BE NECESSARY IF CONGRESS
SHOULD REQUEST IT, THAT EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST

WHICH WOULD MAKE ARMS TRANSFERS TO URUGUAY IN OUR NATIONAL

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INTEREST IN SPITE OF THE STRICTURES AGAINST THEM LAID
DOWN IN SECTION 502B OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF
1961 AS AMENDED. D/HA DOES NOT BELIEVE SUCH EXTRA-
ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST AND THEREFORE IS CONSTRAINED
TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU CHOOSE OPTION 3."
END TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JCS MEMORANDUM DATED JULY 29
ON SAME SUBJECT. BEGIN TEXT.

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT
(GOU) (U)

1. (C) REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
UNDATED MEMORANDUM, SUBJECT AS ABOVE. OPTION 2 AND
SUPPORTING RATIONALE WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS
IS SUPPORTED.
A. OPTION 2
"CONTINUE PRESENT CASE-BY-CASE CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY
ASSISTANCE REQUESTS UNDER THE LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE
COMMERCIAL AND FMS CASH CHANNELS. INITIALLY UNDER THIS
OPTION WE WOULD APPROVE SALES OF SPARE PARTS AND SERVICES
NEEDED TO MAINTAIN PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIP-
MENT TO FULFILL THE IMPLIED OBLIGATION INCURRED IN
PROVIDING THE EQUIPMENT. WE WOULD PERMIT THE USE OF
PRIOR YEAR FMS CREDITS FOR THIS PURPOSE, AS AN EXCEPTION
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TO POLICY. WE WOULD INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY
THAT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE
REQUESTS FOR MAJOR NEW EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DEPENDENT
UPON GOU INITIATIVES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA."

B. SUPPORTING RATIONALE FOR OPTION 2.
1) REWORD LAST PRO AS FOLLOWS:
"IT CONFORMS WITH THE LETTER OF THE KOCH AMENDMENT, AND
THE SENTIMENTS OF THE MAJORITY OF CONGRESS."

REASON: ACCURACY.

2) DELETE THE FOLLOWING CON:
"IT IS SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION BY CONGRESS. . ., AND
MAY INVITE MORE LEGISLATION BY THAT BODY."
REASON: IF CONGRESS HAD INTENDED THE KOCH AMENDMENT TO
BE MORE RESTRICTIVE, IT WOULD HAVE SO LEGISLATED.

2. (S) ALTHOUGH URUGUAY, FROM A MILITARY SENSE, IS OF
LIMITED IMPORTANCE, US ACCESS TO URUGUAY PORTS AND
AIRFIELD FACILITIES COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE TO

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ANY FUTURE MILITARY OPERATIONS REQUIRED IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION. IN THE EVENTUALITY THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE DENIED THE USE OF THE PANAMA CANAL, BASE RIGHTS IN URUGUAY COULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE IN TRANSITING CAPE HORN AROUND SOUTH AMERICA. US STRATEGY PLACES EMPHASIS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF A POSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE SECURITY POSITION IN THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION, KEEPING THE MILITARY ALIGNED WITH THE UNITED STATES AND AVOIDING POLITICAL ALIENATION.

3. (C) IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT "DISASSOCIATION" WITH URUGUAY AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE OTHER OPTIONS WILL VERY LIKELY NOT FURTHER US INTERESTS. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S RECENT REPORT TO THE CONGRESS STATES

THAT CUTTING OFF ARMS TO SMALL COUNTRIES MAY NOT BY ITSELF BE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT COLLECTIVELY COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT US OBJECTIVES OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE "THEREBY INCURRING DAMAGE TO OUR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INTERESTS." IT ALSO DIMINISHES THE INFLUENCE THE US MIGHT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO BRING TO BEAR TO ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS.

4.(C) THEREFORE, US INTERESTS CAN BEST BE SERVED BY BEING RESPONSIVE TO GOU LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 13. TRADITIONALLY, GOU HAS DEPENDED ON THE US FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND URUGUAY'S MILITARY REQUESTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND AMMUNITION PURCHASED UNDER FMS CASH AND COMMERCIAL SALES ARE NEEDED TO REPLENISH SUPPLIES AND MAINTAIN A LIMITED MODERNIZATION EFFORT. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, AS MAJOR PROVIDER OF EQUIPMENT TO URUGUAY, USG SHOULD APPROVE FMS CASH AND COMMERCIAL SALES OF SPARE PARTS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN ALL PREVIOUSLY US SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO FULFILL THE IMPLIED OBLIGATION INCURRED IN PROVIDING THE EQUIPMENT.

5. (C) OPTION 2, AS MODIFIED, RETAINS THE INITIATIVE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ESTABLISHING THE PARAMETERS OF MILITARY RELATIONS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS.
FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:
PHILIP D. SHUTLER
MAJOR GENERAL, USMC
VICE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF.
END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE183747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCGRAHAM:RC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770282-1182
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770892/aaaaczly.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0a62e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1695249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: D/HA AND DOD OPTION CHOICES FOR URUGUAY MILITARY ASSISTANT POLICY PAPER
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SHUM, UY, US
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a62e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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